



# NCLB Making a Difference in New Jersey

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for New Jersey to more than \$2.1 billion – 36% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$272.8 million – \$57.8 million over 2001 levels – to help New Jersey's neediest children.
- New Jersey has received \$55.3 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$19.4 million for New Jersey. In total, over six years, New Jersey is set to receive approximately \$120.4 million in Reading First funds.
- "Reviewing test data, Superintendent of Pittsgrove Township School District Loren Thomas found economically disadvantaged students were not scoring as well as their peers. Due to new reporting guidelines under the *No Child Left Behind* law, districts can better tell which students need help. Thomas reached out to the community to see what could be done. The fruit of those discussions led to an after-school program; similar such programs were started in the district's other schools. Officials located it where children like fourth-grader Sherman Birkett can walk to from their home." (*Today's Sunbeam*, 4/13/04)
- "For the first time, a majority of Newark fourth-graders were found to be proficient in both language arts and math, local officials said. Scores were up on every test, they said, and were strongest in the elementary schools, where 62 percent passed in language arts and 54 percent in math. Among general education students, the numbers were even better." (*Newark Star-Ledger*, 6/22/04)
- "More than 90 percent of New Jersey's teachers are 'highly qualified' to teach their respective subjects, according to federal standards set forth under the *No Child Left Behind Act*. In New Jersey, 96 percent of elementary school teachers meet the federal qualification. In middle and high schools, the percentage of highly qualified teachers is about 90 percent. 'These are great results, by and large,' said Steve Wollmer, spokesman for the New Jersey Education Association. 'The bar was already set at a pretty high level here in New Jersey, and this ratifies that.'" (*Newark Star-Ledger*, 6/23/04)